

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a regular workshop and budget workshop on Monday, October 24, 2011 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls at 7:30pm.

PRESENT:	Edward Magryta	----	Supervisor
	Holly Gokey	----	Council Member
	William Edsall	----	Council Member
	Laurie R. Tautel	----	Council Member
	Mervin R. Livsey, Jr.	----	Council Member
	Justin Rider	----	Counsel
	Kelly Blauvelt	----	Comptroller
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk

Supervisor Magryta opened the workshop at 7:30pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Theresa Ziemer questioned the Town Hall Renovation/Planning line in the budget.

Supervisor Magryta said the Board has lowered the amount to \$15,000.

Council Member Tautel said that money was in there to do the windows in the Town Hall. Ms. Tautel said that the money has been moved to the reserve fund and this line lowered.

Jim Grant is concerned with the kids not respecting their elders.

Supervisor Magryta said the Town will work to enforce the laws.

June Gunza said she heard that the mediator has reached a decision about the Board's raises.

Supervisor Magryta explained that the mediator has said that a simple resolution cannot change the elected officials' salaries. The Supervisor will explain this further at the next regular meeting.

Ms. Gunza asked the Supervisor if he was planning on taking the raise.

Supervisor Magryta said the issue is not at that point yet.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Magryta announced that USAA will have their grand opening on Friday, October 28 at 1:30pm.

Supervisor Magryta announced that My Town Marketplace will have their grand opening on Friday, October 28 at 10:00am.

TOWN OF HIGHLANDS EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION – CONTRACT RATIFICATION

Supervisor Magryta said the Board has been in negotiations with this contract for a long time and it has reached the point where it can be ratified. The Supervisor explained that this is a 2 year agreement so it alternates years with the PBA Contract.

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to accept the Collective Bargaining Agreement. (A roll call vote was taken.)

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Tautel, Livsey)
0-nays**

WATER DISTRICT II POINTS DISCUSSION – UPDATE

Justin Rider explained that there has been a lot of progress since the last meeting. Mr. Rider said that the engineers have reviewed the properties and their opinion will be available to the Board within the next day or 2. Mr. Rider further stated that once this is received, the Board will need to schedule a public hearing and he stressed that time is limited.

Supervisor Magryta said that the Board should be able to do this before the budget session on Thursday or Friday.

Supervisor Magryta said that the Board needs to come up with points that are fair to all. The Supervisor said that after this is done, the numbers will be plugged in to get a firm number.

Mr. Rider said he could possibly give the Board some preliminary numbers tomorrow as long as he receives them from McGoey, Hauser and Edsall, but he cautioned that these numbers could change some in the next couple of days.

TOH AMBULANCE CORPS – HIRING REQUEST

Supervisor Magryta said that Capt. Stroppel has requested that the Board hire an EMT to be placed in the pool.

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to hire Michael J. Murphy as a part-time EMT to be placed in the pool at a salary of \$14.05 per hour.

RESERVE FUNDS DISCUSSION

Ms. Blauvelt gave the Board a worksheet showing the Reserve Funds and their balances.

The Board discussed the information Ms. Blauvelt provided.

Ms. Blauvelt explained that money was not put in the proper reserve fund from 2005 to 2009, but was properly done in 2010.

Supervisor Magryta said the funds were populated even though they were not budgeted for. The Board could elect to leave the money there and fund the general fund with a little more money, but that might be difficult.

Ms. Blauvelt said that there is a resolution from January 12, 2008 to move surplus money from the Town Hall Repair fund to the Reserve fund. The money was never moved and it needs to be done.

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to move the \$46,400 from A1620.0450 Town Hall Repair to New York Class Account Town Hall Repair.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Edsall, Gokey, Tautel, Livsey)
0-nays**

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to transfer \$500 from A3620.0200 (Building Dept. Equipment) to A3620.0450 (Building Dept. Consulting Ex.).

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Edsall, Gokey, Tautel, Livsey)
0-nays**

Council Member Livsey made a motion to close the regular workshop and open the budget workshop.

Supervisor Magryta said the Board should allow public comment before the workshop is closed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Flynn announced that Sacred Heart's annual Halloween parade will be on October 31 at 4:00pm. Mr. Flynn also stated that he spoke to Supervisor Magryta about the problems with soccer and it is being worked on.

Annie Scott asked when the Board will be having the next water meeting.

Supervisor Magryta said the next water meeting will be the Public Hearing and that will be for Choice #6.

Ms. Scott said the public should be informed of the choice and be provided a delineation of the choices.

Supervisor Magryta said the alternative structure was put out for the public and the engineers have justified their decision for the methodology.

Council Member Tautel said there is not much difference in the choices.

Ms. Scott questioned whether the Supervisor planned on taking the raise.

Supervisor Magryta said that the Board will make a decision on that.

Charlie Murphy asked if the Board would be responding to comments at the public hearing and if they would be addressed in writing.

Mr. Rider said that questions would not be addressed in writing.

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to close the workshop and turn off the camera. Workshop closed at 9:45pm.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Edsall, Gokey, Tautel, Livsey)
0-nays**

******BUDGET WORKSHOP******

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to open the budget workshop. Budget workshop opened at 9:46pm.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Edsall, Gokey, Tautel, Livsey)
0-nays**

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Council Member Livsey apologized to the Department Heads for their long wait.

Library:

Supervisor Magryta said Mrs. Brahm is requesting \$208,400 for the 2012 budget and he thinks it is a bargain.

Ambulance:

Capt. Stroppel said he would like the Board to make the EMTs full-time without benefits. Capt. Stroppel said he put in \$1,800 for a laptop and \$800 to upgrade his old desk top computer. Capt. Stroppel informed the Board that by January 2013 everything will be narrow band and he is putting money in his budget to purchase new pagers. Capt. Stroppel explained that the billing revenue is up and his training budget is staying the same.

Supervisor Magryta said that certain things need to be evaluated before the Board makes a decision and he will ask Lori Hurst to look into it.

Capt. Stroppel informed the Board that, while he gets a lot of grants, he is unable to apply for any federal grants because the Board is not in compliance with NIMS.

Supervisor Magryta is concerned with the increase in the worker's compensation costs.

Capt. Stroppel said that if another ambulance was brought in, it would cost more than his budget.

Council Member Tautel said the Ambulance Corps needs more manpower.

Supervisor Magryta will review Capt. Stroppel's requests.

Assessor:

Jean Talman asked the Board to make Lisa Borra salaried.

Supervisor Magryta asked if she has taken the Civil Service test.

Ms. Talman said she is signed up, but because of the flood in the County it has been postponed.

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NEXT MEETING

Supervisor Magryta said the next budget workshop will be on Thursday, October 27 at 7:30pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to go into executive session to discuss matters relating to proposed, pending or current litigation. Board went into executive session at 10:55pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Edsall, Gokey, Tautel, Livsey)
0-nays